



**Testimony
Bart Russell
Executive Director
Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Public Safety Committee
February 28, 2012**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns supports SB-200, AN ACT CONCERNING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COORDINATING ADVISORY BOARD TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION and thanks the committee for raising this measure.

This proposal adds a representative of COST to the state Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection's Coordinating Advisory Board, which was created last year pursuant to Public Act 11-51. The board is charged with developing strategies to improve internal and external communication and cooperation in the provision of emergency response services on the state and local level.

COST had an active representative on the state-wide Emergency Management and Homeland Security Coordinating Council, which the newly created Coordinating Advisory Board replaced. Due to an oversight, a representative of COST was not included on the Advisory Board. A small town perspective is critical to developing emergency response services that meet the needs of the state's rural and suburban towns with populations of less than 30,000.

We therefore urge you to support SB-200 which adds a COST representative to the Coordinating Advisory Board.

Thank you.

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